

People's Campaign



Parole Justice

THE COST SAVINGS OF PAROLE JUSTICE

Last year alone, New York spent over **\$18.2 billion on carceral systems**. Rather than continue to invest in an expensive and racist criminal justice system, New York must take steps to reduce its prison population, especially given the budget problems caused by COVID-19.

NY legislators must pass Elder Parole (S15/A.3475) and Fair & Timely Parole Act (S1415/A.4231), which would reduce prison spending by providing more incarcerated people the opportunity to return home, if the Parole Board deems them ready.

Together, these common sense pieces of legislation can save the state \$522 million annually.

Elder Parole:

There are more than 1,100 people over the age of 55 who have served 15 years in prison and are not yet eligible for release.

Because of the additional medical costs and other costs for incarcerated older people, it costs between \$100,000 and \$240,000 to incarcerate one older person.

Elder Parole (S15/A.3475) allows people in prison who are aged 55 or older and who have already served 15 years in prison an opportunity to appear before the Parole Board for consideration of whether or not they can be released on parole.

If passed, Elder Parole will result in nearly 2,000 fewer people in New York prisons by 2030 and...

...allow New York state to save \$1.7 billion.

Fair and Timely:

Parole Commissioners often deny a person's release based solely on their crime of conviction, despite their growth, transformation, and achievements in a prison system riddled with racism and designed to oppress rather than rehabilitate. The Fair and Timely Parole bill will change the criteria used by the Parole Board for decision-making, and increase the focus on who applicants are today and their current risk.

Currently, only 40% of people who apply for parole have their application approved. According to some estimates, **if the Fair and Timely Act passes and increases the parole approval rate to 70%, roughly 10,000 more people will be eligible for parole by 2030 and...**

...New York will save \$3 billion by 2030.

The numbers are clear. **New York cannot afford its racist and cruel prison system.** Lawmakers must pass Elder Parole (S15/A.3475) and Fair & Timely Parole Act (S1415/A.4231) in addition to ending wasteful prison spending by closing unneeded prison facilities.